



MINNESOTA PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

**MPTA EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEETING
December 17, 2020**

BOARD AGENDA

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

I. Call to Order – **8:32 a.m. Ryan Daniel**

II. Roll Call

Margaret Donahoe

Katie Leibel

Paul Coyour

Nick Lemmer

Ryan Daniel

LuAnn Bleiler

Tiffany Collins

Mike Klauda

Phil Pumphrey

Daryn Toso

Cathleen Amick

Brenda Brittin

JoAnne Brackey

III. Additions or Changes to the Agenda/Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve- Phil Pumphrey Second: Tiffany Collins

Motion passed.

Old Business

IV. Approval of November 19, 2020 Minutes (Attachment)

Motion to approve- LuAnn Bleiler Second: Daryn Toso

Motion passed.

New Business

V. Legislative Update – **Sherry Munyon**

- Sherry Munyon was sick and unable to attend the meeting. The group decided to look over the current legislative agenda and approve it.
- Margaret asked if \$10 million makes sense for new vehicles and transit facilities or if people would like to change those numbers at all. They said they would possibly have Sherry look into these numbers. Rainbow Rider Transit is doing

some major facility updates along with Duluth Transit Authority. Cathleen and Daryn wanted to be conservative and not ask for more than \$10 million.

- Nick Lemmer asked if there was any supporting documentation behind the legislative agenda, and wondered where some of the information is coming from. Margaret said we are struggling with getting information from OTAT and the systems. Sherry wants to bring up the fact that systems are being impacted by the pandemic, but we're not sure how we can say the systems are struggling with funding. Margaret is not sure how to quantify those additional expenses especially if they are being addressed with federal funding. Unless it is an unmet need, we're not sure if we can back it up. Cathleen Amick said some of the stuff the CARES Act is paying for are things we should have been doing all along, and Cathleen noted that after the CARES Act funding, they're not sure how they're going to continue with this. All transit systems are noting this additional spending so that would be something good to bring to legislators and talk to them about.
- We might see if Sherry can send us an email about everything once she is feeling better.

Motion to approve legislative agenda with the option of tweaking it moving forward:
Cathleen Amick Second: LuAnn Bleiler.
Motion approved.

VI. Advocacy Update – **Margaret Donahoe**

- Upcoming Session: We know that the House for sure will be doing things remotely for at least the first three months of the year. We're thinking about getting some remote meetings set up with constituents or have the board meet with people. We don't know committees yet, but we probably should meet with transportation committee when they come together. It would be wise for us to get to know our legislators, talk to them about transit, the organization, how things work, where things are at, etc. We would probably want to schedule 2-4 meetings with various legislators in January, a few more in February, etc.
- Rep. Hornstein wants to focus in the house with a lot of committee meetings on issues. He is working with the Center for Transportation Studies to get some expert voices to talk about the future of transportation. We know there will be some issues, especially for transit, because people feel like transit doesn't really matter anymore. Rep. Hornstein will really want to counter that and stress the importance of transit.
- Katie Leibel has started going over one-pagers on transit systems with people to ensure the information is up-to-date and give legislators some snapshots of all of these different systems.
- We might want to put together a ten-minute video focusing on what transit systems are doing right now (cleaning, transportation essential workers, delivering meals, etc.) We want to have people shoot some video on your phone of buses being cleaned, the kinds of technology that are being used, social distancing, etc. We just want to show off how transit is still important. This session will be about playing defense. Katie will email everyone about the video/

photo requests, reminding them to include horizontal, NOT VERTICAL video, and have them send it along to her by January 14th.

- Money from the CARES Act may be an issue for transit along with the new bill. It may lead legislators to think there is a lot of federal money so they don't really have to worry about it. If we can specify a specific dollar amount that we need and show why, that might really help.

VII. Program Coordinator Position – **Katie Leibel**

- Katie discussed the upcoming In Transit, which is expected to come out in the beginning of 2021.
- Katie also brought up the 2021 Roadeo. A survey was sent out to gauge the interest of attendees and system managers. People are unsure, and just want it to be safe. The Kelly Inn agreed to bring the food minimum from \$6,000 down to \$4,000, which should help save some money. Another meeting is expected in January.

VIII. President's Update – **Ryan Daniel**

- We increased dues for members, reduced the budget for the roadeo and reduced some other expenses. Despite everything, the committee still feels good about the budget, but we still are in a deficit of about \$3,000. One thing we could do is push a lot of people to attend the conference to help out.

Motion to approve the budget: Phil Pumphrey Second: LuAnn Bleiler
Motion Approved.

IX. Financial Report – **LuAnn Bleiler**

- Not much has changed since last month. We're looking forward to 2021 and the next year's budget. LuAnn thinks it will help to raise the dues a little bit.
- Margaret noted that we are ending the year with a negative balance of more than \$15,000 which leaves the ending cash balance of about \$180,000, This is okay, but we don't want too many years like that.
- It sounds like Arrowhead transit will take over the Chisago-Isanti routes, so we will have to look at adjusting dues for them.

Motion to pass the financial report: Phil Pumphrey Second: Daryn Toso
Motion passed.

X. MCOTA Update – **Tiffany Collins**

- There is not a meeting in December, so there was a volunteer driver forum that was held this month that is going well. The next meeting is in January.

XI. Events 2021

- Roadeo – St. Cloud
- Transit Conference – Duluth
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XII. Next Meeting

January 28, 2020 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

XIII. Other Business
None.

XIV. Adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.